

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 925

BLANTYRE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJ: JUNTA MEETS WITH SAZIMBI: JUNTA MEMBER DISCUSSES NEXT STEPS

1. SUMMARY: ANGOLAN JUNTA MEMBERS MET WITH UNITA LEADER ON OCTOBER 27 TO EXTRACT PROMISES OF COOPERATION AND TO DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. A JUNTA MEMBER TOLD THE CONSUL GENERAL THAT SIMILAR MEETINGS ARE TO BE HELD WITH THE OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE MOOD OF JUNTA PRESIDENT VICE ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO, THE NEW ANGOLAN ARMY AND THE ARREST OF WHITE EXTREMEISTS.

2. AFTER I TALKED WITH ANGOLAN JUNTA MEMBERS ON OCTOBER 22 AND 23 (LUANDA 908 AND 916) THEY DECIDED THEY COULD NOT LET EVENTS RUN THEIR COURSE. RATHER THAN WAIT TO TALK WITH THE LIBERATION GROUPS ABOUT THE FORMATION OF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT UNTIL THEY OPEN
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OFFICES IN LUANDA, THE JUNTA DECIDED LAST WEEK TO GO OUT AND

NEGOTIATE NEXT STEPS WITH EACH GROUP ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. THE JUNTA'S CONTACTS WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAVE CONVINCED IT THERE WILL BE TROUBLE UNLESS RULES OF THE GAME ARE ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE THREE ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS WITH EACH OTHER THEIR PARTICIPATION IN A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. JUNTA PRESIDENT ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO IS CONCERNED THAT UNLESS HE CAN EXTRACT PROMISES FROM EACH GROUP THAT IT WILL SUBORDINATE TO ITS OWN INTERESTS TO THE CONCEPT OF A UNIFIED NATION, IN-FIGHTING WILL ENSUE AND CHAOS WILL RESULT.

3. JUNTA MEMBER BRIGADIER GENERAL CARDOZO TOLD ME ON OCTOBER 26 THAT TWO PRINCIPAL ITEMS WILL BE ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH EACH MOVEMENT; FIRST, A COMMITMENT TO DIALOGUE IN A RATIONAL MANNER- NO RECOURSE TO ARMS OR VERBAL ATTACKS; SECONDLY, FORMULAE FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF EACH GROUP IN A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE ADMIRAL HOPES TO SERVE AS INTERLOCUTOR FOR ALL THREE GROUPS AND BY THIS MEANS FIND COMMON GROUND THAT WILL BECOME THE BASIS FOR A CONFERENCE TO INCLUDE THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER PARTIES IN ANGOLA.

4. CARDOZO SAID THAT HE, THE ADMIRAL, JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL ALTINO MAGALHAES AND TWO CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MEET ON OCTOBER 27 WITH UNITA LEADER JONAS SAVIMBI IN EASTERN ANGOLA. THE MEETING CAME OFF AS SCHEDULED AT SANGUMBE. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ALL WENT SMOOTHLY AND THAT SAVIMBI WILL COOPERATE. INDEED, SAVIMBI'S THEME IS THE NEED TO UNIFY AND THE JUNTA EXPECTED NO PROBLEMS FROM HIM.

5. IN MY OCTOBER 26 TALK WITH GENERAL CARDOSO, HE WENT INTO SOME DETAIL ABOUT ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO'S MOOD, REPORTED THE LATEST JUNTA THINKING ON THE FORMATION OF AN ANGOLAN ARMY AND TOUCHED ON THE ARREST OF WHITE EXTREMISTS.

6. THE GENERAL SAID THAT THE ADMIRAL FUMED FOR WEEKS OVER HIS INABILITY TO OBTAIN A CEASE FIRE FROM THE MPLA AND FNLA. NOW THAT HE HAS ACHIEVED THAT GOAL HE IS AFRAID THAT IF HE LEAVES THE INITIATIVE ON NEXT STEPS TO THE MOVEMENTS THERE WILL NOT ONLY BE A LONG DELAY IN FORMING A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT THE GROUPS WILL BE AT EACH OTHERS THROATS, AS WELL. THE GENERAL SAID THAT THE JUNTA MEETS EVERY NIGHT, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. THE ADMIRAL

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IS IN A VOLATILE MOOD; IN ADDITION TO THE FACT THAT HE IS ACTION ORIENTED, HE IS ALSO PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO CARRY ANGOLA TO INDEPENDENCE IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DISORDER. FAR FROM INDUCING HIM TO RELAX, THE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS OF CEASE FIRES HAS ONLY MADE HIM MORE ANXIOUS TO MOVE QUICKLY INTO THE NEXT PHASE. THE GENERAL ADDED THAT AT THESE MEETINGS THE ADMIRAL IS OFTEN IN AN AGITATED STATE ABOUT SOME ISSUE OR EVENT AND THAT IT TAKES A WHILE TO CALM HIM DOWN. THE FOREGOING COMMENTS

BY THE GENERAL SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS CRITICISM OF THE ADMIRAL; HE

AND ROSA COUTINHO ARE GOOD FRIENDS AND THE GENERAL IS IN COMPLETE ACCORD WITH HIS EFFORTS.

7. WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW ANGOLAN ARMY, I REPORTED IN LUANDA 908 THAT THE ADMIRAL WAS RETHINKING HIS STRATEGY ON THE BEST MEANS TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE FORCE. GENERAL CARDOSO SAID THAT AFTER A JUNTA MEETING LAST WEEK THE ADMIRAL SEEMED INCLINED TO THE IDEA OF RECRUITING BLACKS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY LIBERATION MOVEMENT. THE RECRUITS WILL BE FOLDED INTO THE TWO BLACK COMPANIES ALREADY IN PLACE. AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE THE LIBERATION GROUPS WILL BE ASKED TO TRANSFER THEIR FORCES TO THE NEW ARMY. UP UNTIL THAT TIME, THEY WILL PRESUMABLY REMAIN IN A SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC SECTION OF THE COUNTRY. I MUST EMPHASIZE, AND IT IS APPARENT FROM MY PREVIOUS REPORTS, THAT THESE ARE BUT PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS THE JUNTA'S PERCEPTIONS OF THE SITUATION CHANGE.

8. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS LUANDA HAS BEEN ALIVE WITH STORIES OF THE ARREST OF A NUMBER OF WHITES INVOLVED IN COUP PLOTTING. THE GENERAL TOLD ME THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE IN JAIL AND THAT OTHERS HAVE FLED. HE SAID THE JUNTA HAS IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE OF PLANS BY THE GROUP TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT. THE GENERAL'S ASSERTIONS NOTWITHSTANDING, SOME OBSERVERS SAY THE SUSPECTED PLOTTERS NEVER DID GET THEIR PLOT OFF THE GROUND AND THAT THE ADMIRAL ACTED OUT OF HOSTILITY TOWARD WHITES WHOM HE FEELS ARE TRYING TO THWART HIS EFFORTS. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THIS DEVELOPMENT IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

KILLORAN

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